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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 DENNIS RAY BARNETT, ) No. C 08-1604 RMW (PR)  
11 Petitioner, ) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE;  
12 vs. ) GRANTING LEAVE TO  
13 ) PROCEED IN FORMA  
14 KNOWLES, Warden, ) PAUPERIS; DENYING  
15 Respondent. ) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ (Docket Nos. 3 & 5)

17 Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, seeks a writ of habeas corpus  
18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner's application to proceed in forma pauperis  
19 (docket no. 3) is GRANTED. The court orders respondent to show cause why a writ of  
20 habeas corpus should not be granted and DENIES the motion for appointment of counsel.

21 **BACKGROUND**

22 According to the petition, petitioner was convicted in Santa Clara County Superior  
23 Court of assault with a deadly weapon, and sentence enhancements for weapon use and  
24 prior convictions. The trial court sentenced petitioner to a term of 45 years to life in state  
25 prison. On direct appeal, the state appellate court affirmed the judgment, and the state  
26 supreme court denied the petition for review. Thereafter, petitioner filed unsuccessful  
27 habeas petitions in all three levels of the California courts. The instant federal petition  
28 was filed on January 14, 2008.

## DISCUSSION

### A. Standard of Review

This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); Rose v. Hodges, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975).

A district court shall “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

### B. Petitioner’s Claims

As grounds for federal habeas relief petitioner asserts that he was denied ineffective assistance of counsel at trial. Liberally construed, petitioner’s allegations are sufficient to require a response. The court orders respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

## CONCLUSION

1. The clerk shall serve by mail a copy of this order and the petition (docket no. 1) and all attachments thereto upon the respondent and the respondent’s attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on the petitioner.

2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within **sixty days** of the date of receipt of this order and the petition, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the underlying state criminal record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the court and serving it on respondent within **thirty days** of his receipt of the

1 answer.

2       3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of  
3 an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules  
4 Governing Section 2254 Cases within **sixty days** of the date of receipt of this order. If  
5 respondent files such a motion, petitioner shall file with the court and serve on respondent  
6 an opposition or statement of non-opposition within **thirty days** of receipt of the motion,  
7 and respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner a reply within **fifteen days**  
8 of receipt of any opposition.

9       4. It is petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner is reminded  
10 that all communications with the court must be served on respondent by mailing a true  
11 copy of the document to respondent's counsel. Petitioner must keep the court and all  
12 parties informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper captioned "Notice of  
13 Change of Address." He must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure  
14 to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to  
15 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

16       5. Petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel is DENIED because there  
17 are no exceptional circumstances, and because there appears to be no need for an  
18 evidentiary hearing. If the circumstances of the case change such that appointment of  
19 counsel becomes warranted, the court will appoint counsel *sua sponte* at that time.

20       This order terminates docket nos. 3 & 5.

21       IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED: 5/5/08

  
RONALD M. WHYTE  
United States District Judge